

(Washington, DC)- Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17) announced today that Governor John Kasich has accepted his invitation to visit the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District to discuss vital economic development projects in Northeast Ohio. In a letter to Gov. Kasich, sent earlier this month, Congressman Ryan highlighted the progress made locally, and the need to discuss goals that will contribute to Northeast Ohio's rebirth.

**"Regardless of party affiliation, I will work with Governor Kasich to continue the progress we have made," said Congressman Tim Ryan. "From the expansion at V&M to the third shift at Lordstown, Northeast Ohio's reputation as a great place to do business is growing. We want to build on that reputation."**

The original invitation to Governor Kasich is below the fold.

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January 3, 2011

Governor-Elect John Kasich

340 East Gay Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor-Elect Kasich:

As you carry on the transition to your new office, I wanted to take a moment to offer you my congratulations on becoming Ohio's 63<sup>rd</sup> Governor. With the election behind us, I hope that we can work together to advance our shared vision for a stronger Ohio.

In recent years, much progress has been made in strengthening and diversifying the economy of Northeast Ohio. Goodyear recently reaffirmed its commitment to the region by keeping its global headquarters in Akron. This announcement meant the retention of 3,500 jobs directly in the community and the construction of a 450,000 square foot facility that will spur retail, commercial and housing development.

Additionally, a public-private-university partnership has established the Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron (ABIA), a facility that has been designated as an Ohio Center of Excellence for Biomedicine and Healthcare. The ABIA's mission is to accelerate translational research to biomedical commercialization as well as improve access, education, prevention, treatment and disease management. The institute is moving Akron toward a secure economic future, with a goal of creating 2,400 jobs within the next decade, and is a critical element of the City of Akron's Biomedical Corridor, a unique effort aimed at luring health-related ventures to the region.

In Portage County, great progress has been made to transition the 20,000 acres of the former Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant to productive use by transforming the facility into a training center. Currently, Camp Ravenna has a total economic impact on the state and region of \$23 million annually, with that number expected to grow as its training capacity and staffing levels increase. The Guard estimates that military personnel will spend an additional \$15 million in the region annually when the facility is fully operational: bringing valuable dollars into the community's restaurants, hotels and other service providers.

The Mahoning Valley was recently recognized as having the highest manufacturing job growth in the nation at 8.9 percent, with the Cleveland MSA coming in second. This success is largely attributed to the recent expansion of the V&M Star facility in Youngstown and the deployment of the new Chevy Cruze from the General Motors Lordstown Complex.

The Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI) continues to see both large and small successes, with the recent sale of Turning Technologies, a deal which will bring new capital to the company and enable its continued growth. YBI also recently announced that its portfolio company Accupoint Software closed its first two foreign sales. The firm's Interlink QES quality, environmental and safety solution technology has been selected by a gas and oil exploration firm headquartered in London.

With the recent addition of Eastern Gateway Community College and the Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center, an advanced energy business incubator, the city of Warren continues the process of reinventing itself and restoring its historic downtown.

The 17<sup>th</sup> congressional district is home to four major universities, all of which are not only working to provide a high tech workforce for the jobs of the new economy, but also developing new products, processes and technologies that can be spun off for commercial development. The University of Akron is a world leader in the study of polymers, Kent State University in liquid crystal technology and Youngstown State University in advanced materials. And, in addition to turning out doctors and pharmacists, NEOUCOM is conducting research on topics including tissue engineering, medical applications of biopolymers, normal and abnormal skeletal development, orthopedic diseases and cancer.

If you would like to arrange a meeting, in which I can share with you firsthand the projects that are contributing to Northeastern Ohio's rebirth, and to discuss our common goals and concerns, please contact me at (330) 373-0074. I look forward to the opportunity to work with you.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan

Member of Congress (OH-17)

